# Congressman
# Ray LaHood
### Eighteenth District Illinois

The Federal Election Commission
Office of General Counsel
999 E Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20463

*AOR 2005-05*

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Ray LaHood, I am writing to request an Advisory Opinion from the Commission on questions involving Congressman LaHood's recent interest in exploring his candidacy for Governor of the State of Illinois.

Ray LaHood is a sitting Congressman from the 18th District of Illinois and has registered his candidacy and established Friends of Ray LaHood, an appropriate committee to raise funds for his candidacy for Congress. He continues to raise and expend funds from that committee and meets all requirements and obligations that are required of him by Federal law.

Commensurate with his interest in exploring a candidacy for Governor, he has established Ray LaHood for Illinois, a committee registered with the State of Illinois in compliance with laws of the State of Illinois.

So far, Congressman LaHood has raised funds for his exploratory campaign under federal guidelines, setting limits accordingly and accepting no corporation contributions.
We are requesting assistance and an opinion from the FEC in the following area:

If Congressman LaHood should decide not to announce his candidacy for Governor, what are his options with regard to the money that has been raised and deposited in the Ray LaHood for Illinois account:
-Can the funds in Ray LaHood for Illinois account be given to state and local candidates?
-Can the funds be given to state and local Republican organizations?
-Can the funds be refunded to the contributors?
-Can the funds be used for donation to non-profit charitable organizations?

We are, of course, most anxious for your guidance and counsel as we move through this process.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rex Linder, Treasurer
Friends of Ray LaHood